

REMARKS

Amendments

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the claim language. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being obvious over Jeon in view of Knee (U.S. Patent 6,285,716 B1). Applicant respectfully submits that the combination is improper and furthermore does not teach each and every element of the invention as claimed in claims 1-10.

In response to Applicant's arguments, the Examiner stated that Jeon decodes erroneous coefficients to create predicted decodings and Knee decodes non-erroneous coefficients into an intermediate stage to create partial decodings, and therefore it would be obvious to combine them to produce the claimed invention. However, the Examiner's stated motivation is not supported by the references or the art as a whole.

First, Jeon assumes all coefficients are erroneous and therefore there is no motivation in Jeon to modify its teaching to assume some coefficients are non-erroneous. Second, because Knee does not distinguish between erroneous and non-erroneous coefficients in a coefficient stream, Knee will decode erroneous coefficients into the intermediate stage if they appear in the coefficient stream. The fact that Knee merely mentions an error concealment flag without describing its use is insufficient to motivate modifying Knee to only decode non-erroneous coefficients into the intermediate stage as urged by the Examiner. Because the combination of Jeon and Knee is improperly motivated, Applicant respectfully maintains that the Examiner has failed to state a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claims 1-10.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the combination is proper, the combination does not teach each and every limitation of Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1-10.

The Examiner admits that Jeon does not teach the claimed partial decodings but asserts that Knee does. However, claims 1-10 as they existed prior to the current response specified that the partial decodings are pixel values. Because Knee specifically states that an advantage of his invention lies in not decoding image coefficients into the final pixel values, the intermediate domain values in Knee cannot be properly equated with the claimed pixel values. Apparently the Examiner did not recognize this distinction in drafting the present Office Action and continues to assert that Knee's partial decodings are equivalent to the Applicant's partial decodings. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims to clarify that the claimed partial decodings are created by decoding the error-free coefficients into error-free pixel values. Partial decodings consisting of intermediate values as disclosed in Knee cannot be properly interpreted as equivalent to the partial decodings consisting of pixel values as claimed.

Therefore, the combination of Jeon and Knee cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 1-10, and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) over the combination.

Claims 11-15

Claims 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being obvious over the combination of Jeon, Knee and Florencio. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination is improper and furthermore does not teach each and every element of the invention as claimed in claims 11-15.

Independent claim 11 recites substantially the same elements as independent claims 1 and 6. Therefore, as discussed above for claims 1 and 6, the combination of Jeon and Knee does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 11, so Florencio must supply the missing elements to have a *prima facie* case of obviousness. However, Florencio does not teach decoding non-erroneous coefficients in a block into error-free pixel values to create partial decodings of the block as claimed. Thus, the combination of Jeon, Knee and Florencio cannot be properly interpreted as doing so. Furthermore, the base combination of Jeon and Knee is improper, the combination of Jeon, Knee and Florencio is also improper.

Therefore, the combination of Jeon, Knee and Florencio cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 11-15 and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination.

Examiner's Comment

Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner attention to Figure 3 of the specification where the partial decoding and the invention as claimed is described. A block of transform coefficients for encoded image data is received at block 305 and decoded into pixels at block 310. When some of the transform coefficients are erroneous, only the portions of the block corresponding to non-erroneous coefficients contain correctly decoded (error-free) pixels (page 13, lines 1-7). Applicant refers to the correctly decoded pixels as a partial decoding \hat{x} (page 8, line 10 through page 9, line 6). After the lost or damaged transform coefficients are identified at block 315, estimated values for the corresponding pixels are selected at block 320. Estimated transform coefficients values derived from the estimated pixel values are used to decode the corresponding pixels at block 325 (page 12, lines 8-14). Applicant refers to the portions of the block containing the estimated values as a predicted decoding $E(x)$ (page 8, line 10 through page 11, line 2). At block 330, the partial decoding \hat{x} and the predicted decoding $E(x)$ are used to update the estimated values for the lost or damaged transform coefficients (page 12, lines 15-19; *see* equation 19).

SUMMARY

In this response, claims 1-15 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-3476.

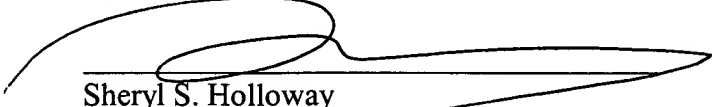
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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